

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior listings of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

1. (Currently amended) An imaging system comprising:
 - a light source to generate light for illuminating an object having features aligned in a first direction and features aligned in a second direction;
 - a lens for imaging the illuminated object onto a surface;
 - a spatial selection device selective in a first mode of light corresponding to features of the illuminated object aligned in the first direction and selective in a second mode of light corresponding to features of the illuminated object aligned in the second direction, wherein the spatial selection device comprises a pupil filter and a rotation device for rotating the pupil filter with respect to an optical axis, wherein the rotation device is configured for rotating the pupil filter between first and second positions in the first and second modes, respectively, wherein the pupil filter includes one or more blocking regions and one or more non-blocking regions, and wherein the blocking regions comprise wedge-shaped blocking regions;
 - a polarization device optically coupled to the spatial selection device and selective in the first mode of s-polarized light corresponding to the first direction and selective in the second mode of s-polarized light corresponding to the second direction; and
 - a controller for selecting operation in the first mode or in the second mode.
2. - 5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently amended) An imaging system as defined in claim 51, wherein the wedge-shaped blocking regions have angles of about 90°.
7. (Currently amended) An imaging system as defined in claim 51, wherein the wedge-shaped blocking regions have angles of greater than 90°.
8. (Currently amended) An imaging system comprising:

a light source to generate light for illuminating an object having features aligned in a first direction and features aligned in a second direction;

a lens for imaging the illuminated object onto a surface;

a spatial selection device selective in a first mode of light corresponding to features of the illuminated object aligned in the first direction and selective in a second mode of light corresponding to features of the illuminated object aligned in the second direction, wherein the spatial selection device comprises a pupil filter and a rotation device for rotating the pupil filter with respect to an optical axis, wherein the rotation device is configured for rotating the pupil filter between first and second positions in the first and second modes, respectively, wherein the pupil filter includes one or more blocking regions and one or more non-blocking regions, and An imaging system as defined in claim 4, wherein the blocking regions are bounded by an inner radius and an outer radius;

a polarization device optically coupled to the spatial selection device and selective in the first mode of s-polarized light corresponding to the first direction and selective in the second mode of s-polarized light corresponding to the second direction; and

a controller for selecting operation in the first mode or in the second mode.

9. (Currently amended) An imaging system comprising:

a light source to generate light for illuminating an object having features aligned in a first direction and features aligned in a second direction;

a lens for imaging the illuminated object onto a surface;

a spatial selection device selective in a first mode of light corresponding to features of the illuminated object aligned in the first direction and selective in a second mode of light corresponding to features of the illuminated object aligned in the second direction, wherein the spatial selection device comprises a pupil filter and a rotation device for rotating the pupil filter with respect to an optical axis, wherein the rotation device is configured for rotating the pupil filter between first and second positions in the first and second modes, respectively, wherein the pupil filter includes one or more blocking regions and one or more non-blocking regions, and An imaging

~~system as defined in claim 4~~, wherein the pupil filter further includes a region proximate the optical axis with partial transmission of light from the light source;

a polarization device optically coupled to the spatial selection device and selective in the first mode of s-polarized light corresponding to the first direction and selective in the second mode of s-polarized light corresponding to the second direction; and
a controller for selecting operation in the first mode or in the second mode.

10. (Currently amended) An imaging system as defined in claim 4~~1~~, wherein the blocking regions and the non-blocking regions are separated by 90°.

11. Canceled

12. (Original) An imaging system as defined in claim 1, wherein the spatial selection device is positioned proximate a pupil of the lens.

13. (Currently amended) An imaging system as defined in claim 5~~1~~, wherein the light source is configured for illuminating a lithography mask.

14. (Original) An imaging system as defined in claim 1, configured as a lithographic system.

15. (Original) An imaging system as defined in claim 1, wherein the polarization device comprises a polarizer having an optical axis and a rotation device for rotating the polarizer about an optical axis.

16. (Original) An imaging system as defined in claim 15, wherein the rotation device is configured for rotating the polarizer between first and second positions in the first and second modes, respectively.

17. (Original) An imaging system as defined in claim 15, wherein the polarizer is located between the light source and the object.

18. (Currently amended) An imaging system comprising:

a light source to generate light for illuminating an object having features aligned in a first direction and features aligned in a second direction;

a lens for imaging the illuminated object onto a surface;

a spatial selection device selective in a first mode of light corresponding to features of the illuminated object aligned in the first direction and selective in a second mode of light corresponding to features of the illuminated object aligned in the second direction;

a polarization device optically coupled to the spatial selection device and selective in the first mode of s-polarized light corresponding to the first direction and selective in the second mode of s-polarized light corresponding to the second direction, wherein the polarization device comprises a polarizer having an optical axis and a rotation device for rotating the polarizer about an optical axis and ~~An imaging system as defined in claim 15,~~ wherein the polarizer is located between the object and the surface., and

a controller for selecting operation in the first mode or in the second mode.

19. (Currently amended) An imaging system as defined in claim 1, ~~wherein the spatial selection device comprises a pupil filter having one or more blocking regions and one or more non-blocking regions,~~ wherein the polarization device comprises a polarizer, said imaging system further comprising a device for rotation of the pupil filter and the polarizer between respective first and second positions corresponding to the first and second modes, respectively.

20. (Original) An imaging system as defined in claim 19, wherein the first and second positions are separated by 90°.

21. (Original) An imaging system as defined in claim 1, wherein the spatial selection device and the polarization device are configured for equal intensity illumination of the surface in the first and second modes.

22. – 38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently amended) An optical lithographic imaging system for projecting onto a surface a mask having features aligned in a first direction and features aligned in a second direction, comprising:

a pupil filter selective in a first position of light corresponding to features of the illuminated mask aligned in the first direction and selective in a second position of light corresponding to features of the illuminated mask aligned in the second direction, wherein the pupil filter includes one or more blocking regions and one or more non-blocking regions, and ~~An imaging method as defined in claim 38,~~ wherein the blocking regions comprise wedge-shaped blocking regions;

a polarizer optically coupled to the pupil filter and selective in the first position of s-polarized light corresponding to the first direction and selective in the second position of s-polarized light corresponding to the second direction; and

a device configured for movement of the pupil filter and the polarizer between the respective first and second positions thereof.

40. (Currently amended) An optical lithographic imaging system for projecting onto a surface a mask having features aligned in a first direction and features aligned in a second direction, comprising:

a pupil filter selective in a first position of light corresponding to features of the illuminated mask aligned in the first direction and selective in a second position of light corresponding to features of the illuminated mask aligned in the second direction, wherein the pupil filter includes one or more blocking regions and one or more non-blocking regions, and ~~An imaging method as defined in claim 38,~~ wherein the blocking regions are bounded by an inner radius and an outer radius;

a polarizer optically coupled to the pupil filter and selective in the first position of s-polarized light corresponding to the first direction and selective in the second position of s-polarized light corresponding to the second direction; and

a device configured for movement of the pupil filter and the polarizer between the respective first and second positions thereof.

41. (Currently amended) An optical lithographic imaging system for projecting onto a surface a mask having features aligned in a first direction and features aligned in a second direction, comprising:

a pupil filter selective in a first position of light corresponding to features of the illuminated mask aligned in the first direction and selective in a second position of light corresponding to features of the illuminated mask aligned in the second direction, wherein the pupil filter includes one or more blocking regions and one or more non-blocking regions, and ~~An imaging method as defined in claim 38,~~ wherein the pupil filter further includes a region proximate an optical axis with partial transmission of light;

a polarizer optically coupled to the pupil filter and selective in the first position of s-polarized light corresponding to the first direction and selective in the second position of s-polarized light corresponding to the second direction; and

a device configured for movement of the pupil filter and the polarizer between the respective first and second positions thereof.

42. (Currently amended) An imaging method as defined in claim ~~36~~39, wherein the polarizer comprises a birefringent half-wave plate.

43. – 44. (Canceled)